

and implementation of financial literacy education programs. A deep body of research exists that shows the importance of introducing literacy skills as early in a child's cognitive development as possible. This continuum of learning extends to financial literacy. As such, NFI is committed to providing financial literacy education to all age levels beginning in early childhood. Parents and teachers are in the best position to shape the knowledge and behaviors of future consumers, and to give children the foundation they need to make the best financial literacy choices.

NFI commends you for the very crucial role you play in the financial education of Americans, and we look forward to continuing to work with you and your colleagues in the House Financial and Economic Literacy Caucus to insure that the goals and ideals of Financial Literacy Month are realized each and every day.

Sincerely yours,

ELIZABETH A. COIT,  
Executive Director.

Washington, DC, April 12, 2007.

Hon. RUBÉN HINOJOSA,  
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

Hon. JUDY BIGGERT,  
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVES HINOJOSA AND BIGGERT: HSBC-North America strongly supports H. Res. 273, a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of Financial Literacy Month. On behalf of HSBC, I would like to commend you and Congresswoman Biggert for your ongoing efforts to highlight the importance of financial literacy at the national level.

As an industry leader, HSBC champions several issues important to consumers, including financial education. Through the Center for Consumer Advocacy, a repository of information on financial literacy education, insights, and guidance, HSBC continues its commitment to improving America's financial literacy rates.

Signature initiatives include:

YourMoneyCounts.com—HSBC's consumer education website provides information in a broad range of financial and money management topics. There are over 1,900 site visitors per month.

Adult Financial Literacy Workshops—In partnership with the Center for Neighborhood Enterprise (CNE), HSBC provides financial education workshops at numerous community locations. More than 5,000 families were educated in 2006.

Financial Education Grant Program—HSBC provides \$1 million in grant funding to support consumer financial education, credit management, and home buyer counseling programs. These programs are provided by twelve organizations in nine states, and assisted more than 164,000 families in 2006.

YourFutureCounts—In partnership with the Society for Financial Education and Professional Development (SFED), HSBC presents credit management and personal financial management seminars in Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) campuses nationwide. More than 11,000 students have attended seminars since the program's inception in 2005.

Additionally, during Financial Literacy month, HSBC will host and participate in many financial literacy activities across the nation, including Capitol Hill, that help Americans gain critical information necessary to successfully manage their personal finances. For example, once again this year, HSBC will serve as a lead sponsor of the Federal Reserve Bank's Chicago Money Smart Week from April 30–May 5. We are proud of our involvement in this important program which offers consumers a wealth of informa-

tion on how to better manage their personal finances through more than 300 events ranging in topic from credit to home buying to retirement.

We, at HSBC, believe financial education empowers consumers to use credit wisely, build assets and accumulate wealth, providing everyone with an opportunity for a secure and comfortable future.

Your leadership on this issue is essential to raise awareness and to implement a national strategy to improve the money management, credit use, and debt management skills of all individuals. We look forward to continuing to work with you and greatly appreciate your efforts to make financial literacy a nationwide endeavor.

Sincerely,

J. DENIS O'TOOLE,  
Senior Vice President, Government Relations  
HSBC-North America.

[From the Independent Community Bankers of America]

ICBA APPLAUDS REPS. HINOJOSA AND BIGGERT FOR RESOLUTION ON FINANCIAL LITERACY MONTH

WASHINGTON, DC. (April 4, 2007)—The Independent Community Bankers of America (ICBA) strongly supports the bi-partisan congressional resolution (H. Res. 273) designating April as "Financial Literacy Month," which calls on government, non-profit organizations and the private sector to raise public awareness about the importance of financial education in the United States and the serious consequences that can result from a lack of understanding about personal finances.

"Managing money wisely is critical to success in life," said James P. Ghiglieri, Jr., ICBA chairman and president of Alpha Community Bank, Toluca, Ill. "Too many Americans lack the skill and knowledge to make appropriate financial decisions. The more consumers and young adults know, the better they are at managing their finances, and the better they manage their finances, the more likely they are to enjoy a secure financial future."

ICBA has an on-going commitment to improving financial literacy by encouraging community banks to provide financial education within their communities and by forging government, nonprofit and private-sector partnerships, such as the FDIC Money Smart program, JumpStart Coalition, and Practical Money Skills for Life.

"We commend Reps. Rubén Hinojosa (D-Tex.) and Judy Biggert (R-Ill.), along with the more than 100 cosponsors, for introducing a resolution that supports the goals and ideas of Financial Literacy Month," said Ghiglieri. "Financial education is important for today's consumers so that they can understand and make good decisions when faced with the complex array of financial products and services available."

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF  
FEDERAL CREDIT UNIONS,  
Arlington, VA, April 5, 2007.

Hon. RUBÉN HINOJOSA,  
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

Hon. JUDY BIGGERT,  
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN HINOJOSA AND CONGRESSWOMAN BIGGERT: On behalf of the National Association of Federal Credit Unions (NAFCU), the only trade organization that exclusively represents the interests of our nation's federal credit unions, I want to thank you for introducing H. Res. 273, in support of the goals and ideals of Financial Literacy Month.

As you know America's savings rate has been steadily decreasing for years. While

there is no easy solution to the problem, highlighting the most problematic issues and focusing on creating a comprehensive national plan to improve financial literacy is a very important step forward. NAFCU and its membership was particularly pleased to see Congress acknowledge the importance of increasing financial literacy awareness through the strong bi-partisan support of this resolution. With America's savings rate at its lowest point in years and consumer debt continuing to steadily grow, designating April as Financial Literacy Month is an excellent step in raising public awareness on this important issue.

As I am sure you are already aware, improving financial education and teaching members to invest prudently is a hallmark of the credit union movement. I wanted to take this opportunity to offer NAFCU's expertise in that field should you have any questions regarding the many diverse and unique programs that credit unions offer in this regard. With nearly 800 member credit unions, NAFCU and its members have a number of knowledgeable individuals who have helped design and implement numerous financial literacy programs.

Again, if NAFCU can be of any help to you or the Committee, please contact me or NAFCU Director of Legislative Affairs.

Sincerely,

FRED R. BECKER, Jr.,  
President/CEO.

VISA.

Hon. RUBÉN HINOJOSA,  
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

Hon. JUDY BIGGERT,  
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVES HINOJOSA AND BIGGERT: I am writing to commend you for your efforts on behalf of financial education, and for introducing H. Res. 273, a "Resolution Supporting the Goals of Financial Literacy Month."

Visa, through its "Practical Money Skills for Life" program, has been working to expand and improve financial literacy for youth in schools, as well as consumers at all stages of life. This award-winning comprehensive educational program includes interactive, computer based activities, as well as plans that can be used by teachers to deliver financial literacy lessons in the classroom.

Visa developed Practical Money Skills for Life in close consultation with educational and nonprofit financial literacy organizations. These materials are available for free through the Internet at <http://www.practicalmoneyskills.com/>.

Recently, Visa announced its first ever statewide rollout of its "Financial Football" program in West Virginia. Financial Football is a popular, interactive computer game that incorporates content from Practical Money Skills for Life, and tests students' knowledge by combining the structure and rules of the NFL with financial education questions.

This statewide rollout, conducted in partnership with West Virginia State Treasurer John D. Perdue, distributed Financial Football game and curriculum CDs to all high schools in the State.

Visa is encouraged by your leadership on financial education issues. We look forward to working with you, the House Financial and Economic Literacy Caucus, your House and Senate colleagues, and the Financial Literacy and Education Commission, to advance this very important cause.